



AG - Alumni Times

BRINGING TOGETHER GENERATIONS OF ALUMNI



VOL. 1

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025



FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LIONEL CHELLAPPA
PRINCIPAL,
AGCS (PARK STREET)



It is with immense joy that I present the inaugural edition of our Quarterly Alumni Newsletter. This platform is envisioned as a bridge—connecting generations of AG alumni with each other and with our alma mater.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Alumni GC for their initiative and dedication in making this dream a reality. Their efforts have given us a space to share memories, celebrate achievements, and keep alive the spirit that binds us together.

This is just the beginning. With your contributions and support, each edition will grow richer in stories, reflections, and voices from across the globe. I warmly invite you to join us in building this living legacy.

My Utmost For His Highest.

MENTOR-SPEAK



**LAWRENCE WILLIAM
HARTNETT, FORMER
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
& PRINCIPAL (AGCS)**

Dear Alumni,
Warm greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It fills me with deep gratitude and joy to write for the inaugural issue of The Assembly of God Church School Alumni Newsletter, a celebration of God's faithfulness through generations and the enduring bonds that unite us as one family.

Our school was founded on the vision of 'Building a Better India by Building Better Boys and Girls,' guided by the motto "My Utmost for His Highest." These principles have shaped hearts and minds for decades, grounding lives in faith, integrity, and service.

From just 230 students in 1964, under the nurturing care of Pastor D. Mark Buntain and Mrs. Huldah Buntain, the school has grown into a thriving institution that continues to impact thousands. As alumni, you have carried these values into every sphere—education, business, service, sport, and family—becoming beacons of faith and hope in a changing world.

This newsletter is not just a bridge between past and present but a testimony to God's continuing work among us. May it renew our fellowship and inspire us to carry forward the school's mission with gratitude and purpose. The years I spent here (1988–2002) remain among the most fulfilling of my life. May God bless each one of our alumni and their families abundantly.

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST

DOWN MEMORY LANE

AGCS, MY ALMA MATER - A LEGACY IN MOTION

BINA MATHEWS

ALUMNI (1978 ISC BATCH) & FORMER TEACHER

My Journey with My Alma Mater

My journey with The Assembly of God Church School began in 1964, the very year it opened its doors. I walked in as a nursery student and graduated in 1978—shaped by an institution that became my second home. Those years gave me far more than an education; they instilled values, discipline, and a purpose grounded in faith and service. Yet, that was not the end of my journey. I returned once more—this time as a teacher.

Standing on the other side of the classroom transformed my perspective. I witnessed the dedication, compassion, and conviction that go into nurturing young minds. I learned that teaching is not just about imparting knowledge but about touching lives with empathy and kindness.

Our founders, Dr. Mark and Mrs. Huldah Buntain, were extraordinary visionaries who believed that character and competence must grow together. Our first Principal, Mrs. G.D. Shaw, was a mother figure—firm yet full of grace. Her son, Dr. Ronald Shaw, later carried that legacy forward with exceptional leadership, keeping the school rooted in compassion, integrity, and faith.



I owe much of who I am to my teachers—Mrs. Chacko, Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. John, and Ms. Kurian—whose kindness and encouragement shaped me beyond the syllabus.

Though I left in 1993, my bond with the school has never truly ended. The Alumni Committee's tireless efforts—especially through Crescendo—have kept our community vibrant and connected.

To all ex-students yet to join, I warmly encourage you to become part of the Alumni Association. Our stories are stronger when told together, and our impact greater when we serve together. The alumni platform is more than a network—it is a legacy in motion.

My prayer is that this institution continues to transform lives and remain a place where faith, knowledge, and service meet—always fulfilling its founding vision of "Building a Better India by Building Better Boys and Girls."

WHERE IT ALL
BEGAN...GOLDEN DAYS AT AGCS ROYD
STREET: A JOURNEY THAT BEGAN IN
1965

ARUN BOSE, 1975 SENIOR CAMBRIDGE BATCH

It was 1965 when we three siblings joined AG School, Royd Street, transferring from AG School, Asansol. Little did we know we were stepping into a chapter of life that would stay with us forever.

Since there were three of us, the school graciously found a sponsor for my younger brother—an act of kindness that still warms my heart.

Mornings began with milk or porridge in those familiar plastic mugs, and puris or parathas that tasted divine to our hungry little selves. Lunches were simple yet wholesome—rice, dal, sabji, and the much-loved "chicken paste" we eagerly waited for. Fridays meant halwa and puris, and once a week, egg curry. The puris and parathas were made from Canadian wheat specially sent to the school—such was the care in every detail. Pastor Buntain often visited the lunch hall, tasting the food himself to ensure every child was served well. We were made to finish every bite—something we didn't always enjoy then but deeply value today.



Evenings ended with dried fruits handed out from steel buckets and vitamin tablets we didn't realize we'd one day remember so fondly. I joined in 1965 and graduated in 1975—ten beautiful years filled with learning, laughter, and life lessons. The school was smaller then; our meals were served under a tin-roofed shed, and sometimes Bonnie would join us. We even had the longest school bus assembled right on campus!

Mrs. G.D. Shaw, our principal, embodied grace and discipline, while her son, Dr. Ronald Shaw, led in the 1970s with charisma and warmth. Behind the main building stood a tiny dispensary, where his German wife served as our gentle, caring nurse.

AG School was more than an institution—it was family. Every teacher, every corridor, every memory still echoes with warmth. Years later, I'm proud to have helped found the Alumni Association—a small way to give back to the place that gave us so much.

Those truly were the golden days—simple, sincere, and full of heart.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

CELEBRATING THE 79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY AT AGCS PARK STREET



On 15th August 2025, the Assembly of God Church school came together in a patriotic spirit to mark the 79th year of India's independence. The celebration began with an introduction by Head Girl, Srijana Das, and greetings from the chairman, Rev. Patrick Joseph. A guard of honour by NCC cadets and stirring music by the school band set the tone, followed by the hoisting of the national flag by the chief guest, Mr. R. Arjun, IAS. The school then joined in singing the national anthem with pride. The programme continued, hosted by house captain Aadhy Bajpai. A chorus of This Land Is Your Land, a Scripture reading by Head Boy, Owais Raza, and an inspiring address by Mr. Arjun highlighted the morning. Speaking as Secretary of West Bengal Protection of Child Rights, he emphasised the

importance of safeguarding children's rights everywhere. The cultural segment then featured the western & eastern choirs, presenting Amazing Grace and a patriotic medley of Vande Mataram, Ek Sutra Hain Piroye & Desh Hamara. A vibrant dance next portrayed the valor, sacrifice of India's freedom struggle. In a solemn moment, Principal & Asst Administrator, Mr. Lionel Chellappa, led a prayer for the nation. The day concluded with the school song, followed by a vote of thanks from the Vice Principal, Mrs. S. Dey. It was a day of pride, reflection, and renewed commitment to India's ideals of freedom, unity, and responsibility.

REPUBLIC DAY & FOUNDER'S DAY 2025: HONOURING HERITAGE, CELEBRATING LEGACY



The 61st Founder's Day celebration stood out as one of the shining highlights of our school calendar. The occasion became even more memorable with the gracious presence of our beloved Founder's daughter, Mrs. Bonnie Long, whose participation filled the day with joy, warmth, and nostalgia. The morning began with the observance of Republic Day. A smart Guard of Honour by the NCC cadets set the tone of discipline and pride, followed by a stirring performance from the school band. The national flag was then unfurled with reverence, as the entire gathering united in patriotic spirit. The Founder's Day segment carried forward the celebrations with vibrant performances, colourful choreography, and soulful songs that reflected the creativity, energy, and dedication of our students. Each item was a tribute not only to India's Republic but also to the legacy of the school's foundation. A special moment came when Mrs. Bonnie Long addressed the gathering, taking everyone on a heartfelt journey down memory lane. She fondly recalled her parents' immense contribution to the school



and their tireless service to the Mission. Her words served as a gentle reminder of the values of dedication, service, and faith on which our institution was built. The celebrations concluded with an inspiring address by our Chairman, Pastor Patrick Joseph. His words uplifted the gathering and left the school community deeply grateful for an enduring legacy that continues to shape generations.

CRYSTAL SAMUEL, TEACHER REP TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CAMPUS BULLETIN...CONTD

HEAD-GIRL'S ADDRESS

SHREYA THAPA

Dear Alumni Family,

As I write for our very first newsletter, I am filled with both nostalgia and excitement. Nostalgia for the countless memories we've created within these walls, and excitement for the new beginnings that await us. For me, our school has been more than a place of learning; it has been a sanctuary where dreams were nurtured, growth encouraged, and ambitions shaped. From lively hours in the classroom to the thrill of sports victories, each experience has left a mark on who I am today.

One memory especially close to my heart is the early morning chapel services. In those quiet moments of hymns, prayer, and wisdom from the speakers, I found guidance that shaped my values, perspective, and purpose. Those mornings still resonate deeply with me. As we step into new chapters, my love for our alma mater remains steadfast. Through the Alumni Association, I look forward to staying connected, contributing to initiatives, and celebrating the traditions that bind us together. Our alumni network is not just a community but a bridge linking past, present, and future. Together, we can inspire, mentor, and uplift generations to come.

HEAD-BOY'S ADDRESS

AYUSHMAN SAMANTA

A Journey of Growth and Gratitude

Looking back at my years in The Assembly of God Church School feels like turning the pages of a story filled with warmth, laughter, learning. This school has been much more than a place of study; it became a home where values were nurtured, friendships blossomed, and dreams quietly took shape. Every stage performance, debate, and elocution, along with the countless hours behind the scenes, added something unique to the journey. Standing under the spotlight built confidence, while working backstage taught patience and the joy of teamwork. Each moment, big or small, shaped my voice and the courage to express it with honesty. Among these memories, serving as Head Boy stands out as a defining experience. Our school believes in shaping not just students, but human beings. Teachers encouraged curiosity and discipline, while friendships became a source of strength.

As life moves forward, the echoes of assemblies, the thrill of inter-house and inter-school events, and the everyday joys will always stay close to my heart.

**THREE CHEERS TO HOGAN HOUSE ,
WINNER FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025!**

2025 RESULTS: CELEBRATING AGITES & THEIR SUCCESSES

ISC-2025
Congratulations
On Your Success

Science

Ayushman Samanta
98.5%

Anurag Nandi
97.75%

Subhodeep Ash
97.25%

ISC-2025
Congratulations
On Your Success

Commerce

Vansh Kedia
97.5%

Raghav Jalan
95.25%

Avichal Agarwal
93.75%

ISC-2025
Congratulations
On Your Success

Humanities

Minnat Bhuwalka
95.75%

M. Morris
94.25%

Rebecca Sheikh
93.25%

Jennifer Helen Nayak
93.25%

ICSE-2025
Congratulations
On Your Success

Science

Nistha Khandelwal
98.8%

Aarush Bera
98.4%

Spandan Dey
97.8%

ICSE-2025
Congratulations
On Your Success

Commerce

Dhiran Agarwal
97%

Pritisha Mukherjee
94.8%

Misbaul Haque
94%

OUR GUIDING LIGHTS

A TEACHER'S GRATITUDE

AND, THE LEGACY CONTINUED...

T SAMUEL RAJ, FORMER TEACHER

My years at The Assembly of God Church School, from 1979 to 1985, remain among the most enriching and memorable of my career. The students were disciplined, affectionate, and respectful—qualities that continue to shine through even today when they greet me with warmth and love.

As a teacher, I was known to be a strict disciplinarian, ensuring my students reached class before I did—and they always complied with cheerful obedience. I strived to make every History lesson meaningful, and it was rewarding to see them achieve excellent Board results.



We had a wonderful team of teachers under the capable leadership of Dr. R. Shaw and Mr. A.K. Malvea. The daily Chapel services set the tone for each day, grounding us in faith and purpose.

The school's Christian principles, discipline, and genuine care shaped not just my students, but my own journey too. They guided me later as a Principal in other institutions, where I carried forward the unique AG spirit.

My heartfelt gratitude to our Alumni, who continue to remember me each year. May their efforts keep our bonds strong and our legacy alive.

I joined The Assembly of God Church School, Royd Street, in June 1985 — fresh out of college after completing my Master's degree. Dr. Shaw, the Administrator, persuaded my mother to let me join, as the school urgently needed a Geography teacher. During my introduction, Principal Mr. Malvea quipped, "We wanted Mrs. Raj to stay, but since she couldn't, she's sent us a part of herself — her daughter, Ms. Raj, who'll be teaching not History but Geography!" And so began my lifelong journey with AG School.

From my first day as a teacher to serving as Vice-Principal from 2013 to 2024, every chapter has been filled with learning, growth, and grace. Over the years, I've had the privilege of working under nearly all the Principals mentioned in our school's diary — each one leaving an indelible mark. From Mr. Malvea's blend of fun and firmness, Ms. Subaiya's elegance and discipline, and Dr. Raj's steadfast work ethic, to Mr. Hartnett's effortless leadership, Ms. Kurian's quiet strength, Mr. Singh's drive for excellence, and Mr. Chellappa's unwavering support — each shaped me in unique ways and helped me overcome my early shyness.

Our students have AG in their DNA — they are truly special. I've taught countless batches over the decades and am now fondly called "Didi" or even "Mom" by many. The bond we share with our students is real, deep, and lasting. It fills us with pride to see them take a stand for what's right and rise to great heights — carrying forward the AG spirit wherever they go.

E SHINOLA SHEKHAR, EX-VICE PRINCIPAL



WITH REV. DR. A.S RAJ, EX-PRINCIPAL (1987-88)

MY AGCS-STORY



A TRIBUTE TO OUR FOUNDERS, TEACHERS, AND ALUMNI

BICHITRA ELIAS, FORMER TEACHER

Our Beloved Teachers and Precious Students,

I would like to thank God for our founders, Rev. Dr. Mark Buntain and Rev. Dr. Huldah Buntain, for establishing the amazing institutions — The Assembly of God Church School, Park Street, and Royd Street. We are truly blessed to have had them and their family as our mentors and friends.

The AGCSPS Alumni Association (AGCSPSAA) was founded in 2013, the year we celebrated our Golden Jubilee. Since then, our alumni have been diligently working to keep the school family connected. The Alumni Committee has been wonderful, responsible, and relentless in their efforts to keep the alma mater's spirit flying high.

They have undertaken several social initiatives and, every year, organize a special alumni meet — Crescendo. During this event, we get to meet our boys and girls who have grown into worthy citizens of our great nation, India. The young ones, in turn, reconnect with their beloved teachers — the ones they love and cherish.

Our founders' dream of "building a better India by building better boys and girls" comes alive when we see our alumni dedicating their time to AGCSPSAA. Our students, spread across the world, remain respectful, loving, and always acknowledge their teachers with gratitude.

These are just a few of my reflections as the first representative of AGCSPSAA — and it has been an honour to work with them.

A LIFELONG JOURNEY WITH THE AG FAMILY

My journey began on 21st June 1972, when I first walked through the gates of 18/1 Royd Street, holding my mother's hand. My parents had come to meet Pastor Mark Buntain, as my mother wanted to apply for the post of a Bengali teacher that was vacant at the time. Little did I know that what followed would change the course of my life forever. Pastor Buntain's joy knew no bounds when he saw me. He took me in his lap, placed his hand on my head, and prayed to Lord Jesus to bless me and come into my life. He then told my parents that although there was no vacancy for my mother, there was one for me — I would be admitted to the school free of cost. He also offered free breakfast and lunch to ensure my nutrition and health. My parents were overjoyed, and from that moment, I became a part of the AG family.

Coming from a Bengali background, I initially struggled with English, but my teachers patiently guided me until I began ranking in class, a position I strived to maintain till graduation. My journey with AG didn't end there. The school continued to support my education till I completed my English Honours from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata. I will always remember my dear teachers, Mrs. Snigdha Rosario, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Uma Mukherjee, and the ever-kind Mr. Sam Peters, fondly known as "Uncle Sam." Mr. Victor Singh, who taught Accounts, was instrumental in shaping my career, teaching us the true meaning of "Profit and Loss" in life. Mr. Dey and Mr. Bar made Maths and Economics come alive for us, while Mr. S.T. Ranjan, our English Literature teacher, ensured that we mastered English with precision and flair.



DEBAMITRA, 1985 ISC BATCH

Today, I am a successful practicing lawyer in courts across India, a journey made possible only because of the foundation laid by this school.

When the call came to form a School Alumni Association during the Golden Jubilee year, led by Mr. Victor Singh, Mr. Arun Bose, and Mrs. Illena Guha, it was only natural for me to lend my hand to the cause. Today, the Alumni Association stands strong, with dedicated members committed to supporting the school and giving back through various social initiatives.

VOICES THAT INSPIRE



**ANUJ SETH, 1994 ISC
MD, ALIVECOR INDIA**

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After graduating from AG, Anuj went on to pursue Engineering and an MBA. With over 27 years of experience in the IT industry, he now serves as the Managing Director of AliveCor India Operations.

'CRESCENDO': ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER 2024-25



EDITOR'S DESK

FROM THE DESK OF SECRETARY,
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HEMANT KAPOOR, 1995 ISC BATCH

Dear Friends,

It has been a privilege to be part of this great institution "Assembly of God Church School" and more so to be part of its constant growing Alumni.

In life, learning is a never ending process and the only thing which is constant is change. We as young Alumni, are evolving every day. With new members enrolling on a regular basis, our strength is multiplying many folds.

At times we wonder what difference a single person can make to an organization or to a society at large. At times we forget that our strength is in our unity and diversity and if we can contribute our bit in whatever way we can to bring that change, growth is inevitable. As the youngest office bearer in our Alumni, I have the privilege of working with many stalwarts and gain from their vast experience and knowledge. I would request all students who would be passing from school this year to come and become a part of this vast family and benefit from its resources as I have.

Further, I am excited to be part of the inaugural edition of Alumni Newsletter, which aims in sharing knowledge, achievements of students – past and present, new opportunities, career opening and many more such news relating to school and alumni. I wish all the best to Mr. Surajit Kundu (GC Member) in taking this initiative.

My Utmost For His Highest.

For Membership queries and to send in your newsletter content, reach out to us:

EDITORIAL NOTE

SURAJIT KUNDU, 1984 ICSE BATCH

It has long been a cherished dream of the Alumni to create a platform that connects all of us, the AG-ites, across generations and geographies. With immense joy and gratitude, we now present this much-needed space for connection and celebration.

This newsletter is our tribute to our mentors and teachers to reminisce about our school days through stories filled with nostalgia, and to share the inspiring journeys of our fellow alumni who continue to make us proud. It is our way of reconnecting with the school we call home and rekindling that golden AG spirit — every quarter, through each edition.

The Editorial Team will continue to reach out to you for contributions, memories, and reflections. We also invite you to share your experiences, achievements, and anecdotes with us, to keep this bond alive and growing.

We believe this initiative will encourage more alumni to become members of the Alumni Association, thereby strengthening the legacy we share and celebrating the spirit of being Forever AG-ites.

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR:

The Assembly of God Church School (Park Street) Alumni Association was founded in August 2013, during the school's Golden Jubilee Celebration, and has since been actively contributing to the school and community through philanthropic initiatives, such as building a new roof at the Junior School premises, among others.

Beyond the school grounds, the Association has engaged in community service initiatives as well, including blood donation camps, health check-ups, and blood grouping for street children (in association with Roddur).

Looking ahead, we plan to expand our outreach with more health camps, food distribution drives, and blanket donation initiatives. We welcome your ideas and participation to make this journey even more meaningful.

The digital edition can be found at our website
www.agcsalumni.org

HEMANT KAPOOR	9831079833
SURAJIT KUNDU	9331001701
PETER P.K. MITTER	9830529787
GAURANG DAVE	9333115180
DEBAMITRA ADHIKARI	9831009387

Write to us:
agcsnewsletter@gmail.com

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**THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH SCHOOL
(PARK STREET) ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Registered Office Address:
The Assembly of God Church School Park Street
Alumni Association, AG Towers, 6th Floor,
125/1, Park Street, Kolkata 700017